

**Council on Greenways & Trails
Kent County Administrative Complex
Dover
June 20, 2007
9:30am**

Welcome & Introductions

Paul Morrill, Council Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Paul asked everyone to introduce themselves and identify their Council's position or agency representation. He thanked Carl Solberg for providing the meeting room. Paul introduced and welcomed Anthony Aglio, unofficially appointed by Ralph Reeb, DelDOT's Planning Director, to replace Joe Cantalupo.

Susan Moerschel announced that Lisa Lasher, Council on Greenways & Trails member has agreed to serve on the Bicycle Council. An amendment to the Bicycle Council's member requirement establishes that a member of the Council on Greenways & Trails will also serve on the Bicycle Council.

March 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Paul Morrill asked for a motion to accept or change the minutes. Diane Wilson pointed out a couple of spelling errors: (1) Lewes was misspelled, and (2) Earth Day should be Trails Day. Charlie Emerson moved that minutes be approved with corrections, Diane Wilson and Malcolm Baird seconded. The motion passed.

Reports

Education & Outreach – Diane Wilson, Council Member

Diane Wilson gave a summary of the Committee projects:

- *Newsletter* – The Greenways & Trails Newsletter was mailed and distributed to all Delaware libraries and State Parks. There will be extra copies to hand out at the Fair. The newsletter can also be read online, at: <http://www.destateparks.com/greenway/newsletter/news.htm>.
- *National Trails Day (NTD)* <http://www.americanhiking.org/> was celebrated on June 2, 2007. It was a day full of a variety of Trail events throughout Delaware. There were several activities going on in the Lewes area. Diane attended the opening of the Canary Creek Trail, dedicated to the memory of Diane Tyson who died April 6. She was a long time Lewes Greenway Committee member. The Canary Creek Trail is the only wooded trail inside the city limits of Lewes. It is 1.5 miles and weaves in and out through Seagull Drive, and off towards New Road. Work has been ongoing for almost 4 years and the trail will always be a work in progress. Several people were in attendance, as was the press. Thanks to Susan Moerschel for providing the trail signs and thanks to David Bartoo for providing trail markers. Their help saved a lot of money for the Lewes Greenway Committee.

Diane Wilson said a member of the community who was adamantly against having this trail in his backyard has had a complete turnaround and now supports the trail. He is clearing the trail,

spraying the poison ivy and keeping his section of the trail in order. Later on Trails Day, the City of Lewes had the official opening of the Canal Front Park. Praise and thanks was given to the private citizens who donated their time and money, and to this Council for the grant money which helped make this trail possible. Council members were invited to visit the Trail. The Friends of Cape Henlopen also had a great work day. The women of the Village Improvement Association fed the visitors. Glen Stubbolo, Delaware State Parks Volunteer Program Coordinator, gave a talk to the Friends about volunteerism and getting involved, and said he is in the process of developing an Adopting-A-Trail program that will focus on monitoring litter and debris removal.

- *Delaware State Fair*: Governor's Day, Thursday July 26 is the one day Council has a display at the Fair. Ms. Moerschel purchased a new easily assembled, lightweight and interchangeable display board for the booth. Ms. Wilson asked for high quality recent trail pictures, preferably with people, to be used. A sign up sheet was passed around for volunteers to help staff the booth.
- *Coast Day*: Traditionally, the 1st Sunday of October is Coast Day, this year it will be on October 7th. Events begin at 11:00 a.m. and go until 5:00 p.m. in Lewes. The event is well attended, and those who attend are genuinely interested in the environment and are eager to learn.
- *Web Page*: Diane said she, Debbie Heaton and Lisa Lasher would meet [today] over lunch to discuss the designing of the web page with useful trail information. Mr. Salkin fully endorsed this project at the March 7th Council meeting. [See report below.]
- *Outdoor Delaware*: Diane Wilson invited Council to read this magazine and pointed out a great article about Route 9 with artwork by Michelle Green. Debbie Heaton said Michelle Green's artwork is on display for the next few days at the Federal Gallery, Milton library. Susan said the new editor of Outdoor Delaware, Beth Shockley, had approached her in early May and asked for an article about trails for the Fall issue. Susan agreed to write an article about selected trails.

Trails Web Site – Debbie Heaton, Council Member

Debbie Heaton reported that she met with Susan Moerschel, Ray Bivens and Chris Polo to discuss and look at trail information websites to get ideas on how to develop one for Delaware State Parks. The group is hoping to reach out to naturalists to get more information about what they see on the trails. Susan provided a list of all the trails in State Parks with short descriptions including permitted uses, lengths, and surfacing information. Debbie said Parks will be hiring a website designer and expects much work will be completed once this position is filled. Ms. Moerschel said the website will be developed providing information on State Park trails in Phase 1, after which it is envisioned that local community and county trails would be added. This project will be a powerful service to the public across the state. David Bartoo and Bob Ehemann have collected GPS information on trail locations statewide. Susan said she needs someone to write up a picturesque description on why one should visit a particular park. Paul asked if there was a targeted time for hiring the website designer. Debbie said they [State Parks] did not have a date when the new person would be hired.

Updates

Route 9 Event – Paul Morrill, Council Chairman

- The designation is official – Route 9 is now designated a State Scenic Byway. A grant application to the Federal Highway Administration has been made [for corridor management funds]. A public event to announce the designation was held on May 15 at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. About 40 people attended, including the media. Secretary Michael Scuse, Department of Agriculture; Dave Small, Deputy Secretary of DNREC; Tim Slavin, Director of Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs; and Darryl Cole, Director, Office of Public Relations, DelDOT, and Brad Killian, Delaware Greenways, gave brief remarks. Governor Peterson also

turned up while bird-watching at the Refuge, but did not attend the event. The Corridor Management Plan grant application has been sent, and legislators up and down the corridor have been approached for possibly contributing Community Transportation Funds toward a project match. Paul has had verbal commitments of almost \$50,000 from legislators. He said it appeared that things were in good shape with the match for the estimated cost of the Corridor Management Plan. David Bartoo asked how much the project would cost. Paul said there is a budget of about \$150,000 and that 80% of the funding is proposed to come from the federal grant; [the grant requires a 20% non-federal match.] Susan added that corridor management grant funds are made available specifically for Scenic Byways designated by state programs. There is a funding allotment per State, but this is the only project in Delaware competing for [corridor management plan] funds at this time. A Route 52 Corridor Management Plan is complete; the Red Clay Valley plan is being developed.

John Smith Reenactment Voyage – Bob Ehemann, Division of Parks & Recreation

- Bob Ehemann said he was fortunate to attend and observe the 2007 Captain John Smith Delaware Nanticoke Exploration Reenactment Voyage. Bob gave a PowerPoint presentation of the events and the shallop launch at Phillips Landing. The following is a short summary of the activities and events that took place:
 - This is America's first all-water National Historic Trail, established in 2006 by an Act of Congress.
 - John Smith took his voyage through Chesapeake Bay in 1607 to 1609.
 - The reenactment is on its 40th day of a 120-day journey, ending in August 2007.
 - The boat's path and current position can be tracked using GPS. Everything is on the internet and is updated every ten minutes.
 - Over 400 school children attended the Seaford/Blades visit.
 - The shallop crew is answering emails everyday.
 - The shallop website provides awareness of the Bay's condition and gives real-time environmental data, educational tools, and interpretive information while incorporating the physical, cultural and historical aspects of the Chesapeake Bay region: www.buoybay.org/.
 - Ms. Moerschel said the National Parks Service would be putting together a management plan for the Captain John Smith National Historic Water Trail. Secretary Hughes was contacted by the National Park Service asking for a representative to be on the Advisory Council to work with the Park Service. Ms. Moerschel was informed that she was nominated to be the representative from DNREC. She will let Council know whether she is nominated.

Pomeroy Rail Trail – Charlie Emerson, Council Member

- Pennoni Associates was selected out of seven applicants to conduct design and engineering of the Trail. Charlie is waiting for the go-ahead from DelDOT, which has encountered a problem regarding the project match, which will come from the value of the Pomeroy rail line property. It is hoped the problem will be resolved soon. Once the Notice to Proceed is received he will work with the engineering firm to begin the design phase of the trail.

The construction contract will be put together probably late 2008 or early 2009. Funding for this project comes from Federal Highway funds: \$4.7 million over a five-year period from 2005 to 2009. Construction should be complete around 2010.

Construction is expected in phases. Fortunately, a section of the trail is already built through the Courtyard Apartments that were constructed a few years ago.

DART is planning to construct a transit hub between Delaware Avenue and Main Street and will include a rail trail link. There is excitement about this project. Paul asked if the Transit Hub funding was in place. Charlie said it should be available by July 1st and will be ready to go with the contract.

Junction & Breakwater Trail – Susan Moerschel, Division of Parks & Recreation

- Susan reported that on June 4, two days after National Trails Day, the Division had a media event to announce the long awaited next segment of the Junction and Breakwater Trail. Susan showed a map, which highlighted Cape Henlopen State Park and the Junction & Breakwater Trail. Phase 1 opened in November 2003 at 3.9 miles. Nearly 2 miles of new trail connects with the trail at Wolfe Glade [the north boundary of Cape Henlopen State Park Wolfe Neck Area] to Gills Neck Road and Kings Highway, Lewes. Part of this newest segment goes through the Hawks Eye subdivision.

Anthony Aglio said DelDOT has tried to promote use of the route for international students that work in the resort area. The conceptual plan for the western half of Gills Neck Road depicts a trail from Kings Highway parallel to Gills Neck Road.

Dave Bartoo said the newest trail segment is considered a temporary surface until final construction of roadway and bike/ped improvements is completed along Gills Neck Road.

Paul reminded Council of an issue that was not shown on the map that a trail connection/segment is needed [from Gills Neck Road] into downtown Lewes. Diane Wilson said there was discussion [in Lewes] of a tunnel under Freeman Highway as a means to cross that 50 mph road. A trail through the proposed Showfield subdivision will provide the missing link. It could be several years before the final trail segment is built.

C&D Canal Trail – Susan Moerschel, Division of Parks & Recreation

- Susan gave a brief summary for Paul Morrill who had to leave at 10:30 for a meeting at the Legislative Hall. She reported there were several agreements developed to fund the design and engineering of the C&D Canal Trail. Phase 1 of the project is 15.6 miles long from Delaware City to Chesapeake City on the North side of the canal and then a 1-mile stretch on the south side in Chesapeake City. DelDOT, DNREC, New Castle County, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the City of Delaware City are partners. Susan understood when talking to Jeff Niezgoda, DelDOT Transportation Enhancement Program Manager that the design firm will begin soon. She is anticipating a meeting with the design firm in July to kick off the project. Anthony Aglio said he talked to Jeff just before this meeting and Jeff said the design had been issued to JMT [Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson consulting firm], with a project start expected the 1st or 2nd week of July.

Presentations:

- Kent County Greenways & Trails - Carl Solberg, Kent County
Susan Moerschel introduced Carl Solberg, Kent County Parks Division, for a presentation update regarding Kent County greenway conservation and trail development projects. She said that this Council has approved DTF grant funds for the Isaacs Branch Trail and property acquisitions along the St. Jones River Greenway.

Carl Solberg gave a PowerPoint presentation with a photo tour of the four major trail complexes in Kent County. He described in detail the various phases and costs the County has completed while implementing these projects: 1) St. Jones River Greenway is a planned 14-

mile long riverside pathway linking the Greater Dover and Central Kent County area to the Delaware Bay. 2) Brecknock County Park is 86-acres with an historic farm and millpond sites, adjacent to the Isaac Branch stream corridor. 3) Big Oak Park is a 90-acre park bordered on the west and north by SR1 (Exit 114 – South Smyrna Exit) and on the south by Big Oak Road. 4) Browns Branch Park is 38 acres of forested floodplain and 40 acres of formerly tilled uplands.

Trail Overview – David Bartoo, Division of Parks & Recreation

- Susan Moerschel introduced Dave Bartoo, Trail Planner, and said she had asked him to give Council a series of presentations about Delaware State Parks' designing and developing trails. This presentation is entitled "Sustainable Trails – Module One".

David Bartoo's PowerPoint presentation showed a trail in the process of construction at Trap Pond State Park. He described the process of developing sustainable trails with the main objectives of good trail planning and focusing on the nature of the trail. He takes a holistic approach with his trail designs and plans.

In Module One, his approach is based on five concepts: 1) human impact; 2) environmental conditions; 3) social sustainability; 4) economic sustainability; and 5) environmental sustainability. Before building a trail, one should ask oneself how this trail will fit in socially and how well the local community receives it. It is socially sustainable if it is frequently used and works well for the community; it is not socially sustainable if the trail is hardly used or if the community does not take well to it. The economic aspect should look at how much will be spent on constructing the trail, whether there is enough money or whether it will go over budget – there should be a balance. Another factor is looking at what happens after the construction. Often there is no money left over to maintain the trail.

Carl Solberg asked David to talk about the use of Geo textile fabric and what effect it has on the trail. Geo textile is a fabric used primarily in road construction to provide a continuous weight disbursement system; it is laid between the soil surface and trail or road base and top coats. If there is heavy traffic on any particular trail, without this underlying fabric, the point of impact [from foot falls or bike wheels] will essentially radiate straight down and sink into to the soil. Geo textile fabric, which is a somewhat porous fabric, disburses the weight of trail material better, making for a sounder and less impacted surface.

Anthony Aglio asked if the Division considered installing a two-foot shoulder on either side of the trail when planning a trail because trees appear to be very close and people might lose control on bicycles; anything could happen and a lawsuit might result. David said a two-foot shoulder is not typically considered. Shoulders are only built on paved surface trails, which are 10 – 12 feet wide. David said he did not see narrow trails as an issue. Wayne McCarty said most trails are designed for mountain type bikes and not for racing bikes, and that these bikers are aware that they are not on a highway but in a park. Anthony said people might not understand the circumstances when a trail has multi-uses. David said people will use and abuse the trails, no matter what. He did not foresee any long-term problems based on the design of the trail.

At the next meeting, he will talk about other trail components. The biggest question is what happens after the completion of the trail, how it can be maintained and improved.

Announcements

- Mrs. Moerschel said Paul Morrill requested that the next meeting, which is scheduled for October 17, 2007, be held in Sussex County, with a possible field trip to the Canary Creek Trail. Diane will assist Susan in identifying a suitable place to have the next meeting – possibly the Lewes Library or the Biden Center at Cape Henlopen State Park. The main topic on the agenda will be the 2007 Grant recommendations.
- Bob Ehemann thanked Lisa Lasher for her assistance in revising, putting together and implementing portions of the Greenway & Trail Grant Applications. Lisa thanked Bob and said there were no significant changes, just better matching of the grading criteria to the application questions.
- David Bartoo asked for feedback on the presentation he gave today. Lisa said as a member of the Grants Committee she was aware that great portion of funding was spent on engineering and designing the trails, she was interested to know how much money was spent on the trails. She would like to get a broader type of explanation, more resource based and what kinds of things they are being paid for, the boardwalk structure, etc. Diane congratulated David on the great presentation.
- Susan Moerschel asked for a motion to adjourn. Jamie Brown made a motion and Malcolm Baird seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Meeting Attendance:

Appointed Members

Malcolm Baird
Charles Emerson
Deborah Heaton
Lisa Lasher
Paul Morrill
Jamie Brown
Diane Wilson

Agency Members

Anthony Aglio, Planning, DelDOT

Guests

Carl Solberg, Kent County Planning
Wayne McCarty, Kent County Planning

Division of Parks and Recreation Staff

Susan Moerschel
Bob Ehemann
David Bartoo
Rose Ryödi